

graduating from college. He has a record-setting career, playing for such teams as the Phoenix Suns, the Dallas Mavericks, and the L.A. Lakers, that has earned him recognition among sports fans and respect among his colleagues.

While A.C. Green is best known for his talents on the court, it is his dedication to our Nation's children that makes him a role model we can all respect.

In 1989, A.C. Green created a youth foundation in his name to help our children realize their potential and work to achieve their goals. In fact, the foundation's mission statement reads, "Our goal is to serve both the youth and the communities in which they live by providing information about sexual abstinence and social issues that concern our young people and educating them to make responsible choices to prepare them for their future."

The A.C. Green Youth Foundation believes that young people must develop morally, ethically, educationally, physically, and mentally to fulfill their dreams and goals in life.

Mr. Speaker, as part of his program for youth, A.C. Green created a leadership camp that over 100 boys and girls take part in each year. The summer basketball camp focuses on academics, career discovery, and offers self-esteem counseling. It reaches out to those children who have been abused or maybe economically disadvantaged and encourages leadership and teamwork. Perhaps most important, A.C. Green takes the time to personally supervise the camp and interact with the children.

In addition, his foundation has also created abstinence curriculum for today's youth called "I've Got the Power." The program teaches students to recognize their self worth, realize boundaries, and learn to make responsible decisions. These are the values we must work to encourage in the lives of our children.

Mr. Speaker, A.C. Green's commitment to his community is deserving of our recognition. As a basketball player and as a community servant, A.C. Green is a true role model.

Having found success at a young age, he is now working to help those less fortunate realize their own dreams and work to their fullest potential. His efforts and those like his should be honored and encouraged.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank A.C. Green and every one of our Nation's role models who make a difference in the lives of our Nation's children, for the children are America's future.

I thank A.C. Green for helping to ensure a strong America tomorrow and in the future.

BAN TOY GUNS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, as I think a majority of the members of this House know, it is imperative for the safety of the citizens of this country and for the security of our children that we do something to crack down on the trafficking of guns.

To discuss this further, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS).

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, let me point out that the gun that I have in my hand is a toy gun. It looks like a real gun, but it is a toy gun. This is the thing that I am hoping we will be able to come to grips with, that we need to ban toy guns. Too many of these guns look like real guns. Not only that, we have young people in this country who are being killed because of toy guns.

In my own district, I have had youngsters killed because they had a toy gun in their hand, and the police officer did not know it was a toy and ended up shooting the person, and the person ended up dying.

Not only that, we have people that are wounded and end up in the hospital and have hospital costs as a result of toy guns.

Then someone said, well, put a red sticker on them, and then that way the person will know that it is a toy. Well, two things are happening with that. The criminals are now putting red around the front of their guns, and then the other thing is that one can take and pull this right off in no time flat. Then it looks like a real gun again. So we need to sort of make a decision to do something about toy guns.

I have a display here. All these guns here look like real guns. We brought it into the airport, and all the people in the airport started ducking because they thought they were real. So if we have young people getting killed with these toys as a result of having these toy guns, it seems to me we should do something.

Let me just give my colleagues some statistics that might be alarming to them, that every day in the United States of America, we lose a classroom full of children from guns. A classroom full of children die every day in the United States of America because of guns.

Then we have toy guns, which I think that only wets a child's appetite to go get a real gun, and so, therefore, why should we not ban them? Because if it wets their appetite to go get a real gun, then I think that we need to do something.

But the other part, which I do find this extremely alarming, that we have the criminals now robbing with toy guns. In New York, we have the Sullivan law. Of course, if they rob with a

toy gun, then they are not violating the Sullivan law, so, therefore, the charges are less. But the point is that the crime still took place.

Nobody is going to interview one to find out whether the gun is real or not. When one sticks it into a teller's face, the teller is going to give up the money. That is the problem, because they look like they are real.

So I think the time has come when we must do something about it. I have been working on this in my own district. I had what we call a toy gun turn-in, that one turns in one's toy gun, and I would give one an educational toy. Let me tell my colleagues that children were coming and bringing these toy guns and getting these educational toys, which points out that once we begin to remind them, remind the parents and the grandparents about the danger of these toy guns, then people will get the message.

So I am hoping that the Congress will go along with the bill that I have put forth and hope that I will be able to get the kind of support, to be able to get a hearing, and to be able to do the kind of things that need to be done to be able to protect our children.

I think that, in a civilized country, to allow this kind of thing to happen and not to address the issue, to me, just is very alarming. So I am hoping that we will be able to save the lives of our children by making certain that these kind of guns are banned.

I think that anybody could understand, in terms of police officers, a police officer is not going to interview a child. If a child is standing there with a gun like this in his hand or her hand, the police officer is not going to ask, is that gun real or is that gun a toy? The police officer is not going to do any interviewing. The police officer is going to shoot; and then after that, then we have got a problem.

So I think that the time has come when we, as a Nation, should begin to address this issue and address it in a very serious fashion. I think that the best way to address it is to say that toy guns have no place in our society. We should move to eliminate them and to eliminate them now.

So I ask my colleagues to join me in the gun turn-in, the toy gun turn-in, so that our children will be much safer in this Nation.

TRIBUTE TO PAYNE STEWART

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, yesterday our Nation and world lost a great golfer in Payne Stewart. He died in a very tragic accident that most of the Nation followed in a plane crash that occurred many miles away from his home in Florida.